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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 31 | Min 22 | Humidity 58% Partly Cloudy Sensex 77,984 | Nifty 23,658 | Gold 87,342 | Silver 97,664 | Dollar 85.57 | Euro 92.48 | GBP 110.67

SHUT SHOP

While state added 12,231 new IT companies in 5 years, it also recorded highest number of closures, with 5,135 firms shutting down

PAGE 2

REMAINS OF THE DAY

Two days after Cauvery aarti, damaged flower beds, food wrappers, plastic bottles, gunny bags, and discarded clothes left behind at Sankey Tank

PAGE 5

Dust and traffic jams aside, in Fraser Town, trenches dug up during white-topping work to replace pipes are proving to be danger zones for motorists in absence of any warning sign

PITFALLS OF PROGRESS

BBMP officials closed up one such pit only after citizens sent them video of motorist falling in

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Despite repeated complaints about white-topping work, the project has continued on across the city. This time it is the turn of residents of Fraser Town to fret over the problems they are facing due to on-going white-topping of roads. The residents complain that there is a dire lack of coordination between the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) as authorities don't show the same alacrity they do to dig up trenches to replace old water supply pipes and underground drainage pipes, in filling them back up.

"The trenches dug up for laying water or UGD pipes have become danger spots for pedestrians and motorists. A few vehicles have even got stuck in the trenches. One person fell into the trench and got injured at night recently. The BBMP officials have not bothered even to put up caution boards to alert commuters and pedestrians," said

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

> **Officials tend to neglect on-going white-topping works. There is no supervision or monitoring by the BBMP engineers**
> — Resident of area

Permission to axe 800 trees? Granted

Chunk of these trees in defence campuses, which have so far been the greenest of spaces in city

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Through three different orders, the Tree Expert Committee (TEC) has permitted the felling of nearly 800 trees in the city for various infrastructure and development projects.

While 93 trees will be felled inside KC General Hospital for the construction of a new building, 76 trees inside the campus of Air Force Station in Jalahalli will be axed and 629 trees at the Army Service Corps (ASC) center (North) will be removed.

The Army Service Corps (ASC) center (North) had sought permission from the Forest Department of BBMP, seeking permission for the removal of over 1,500 trees on its campus. Permission has been sought for the construction of a facility to accommodate and train troops at ASC.

At Air Force Station in Jalahalli, trees are being cut to provide additional infrastructure to Air Force school and due to security reasons.

City-based tree activists have been raising concerns regarding the large number of trees being felled inside defence campuses in the city. They say while these campuses have so far ensured the city retains green patches amid an unprecedented rate of urbanisation, recently the campuses through multiple applications have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Poetry playback

Museum of Art and Photography is bringing an evening of music and conversation with celebrated singer MD Pallavi and art historian Pramila Lochan. Together, they will discuss the rich repertoire of the Kannada Bhavageethe. Selecting cherished songs rooted in poetry, they will explore the vivid imagery and themes woven into the verses.
Where: Museum of Art and Photography, Ashok Nagar;
When: March 26, 6 pm

02 Play time

AGP World is bringing 'Barff (Snow)', a Hindi play written and directed by actor Saurabh Shukla. The play transports viewers to the backdrop of Kashmir during winter, where the lives of three individuals become entangled in a web of unsettling questions. It delves into the heart of human perception, where the lines between truth and belief blur.
Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte;
When: April 6, 7.30 pm

03 Art exhibition

The eighth edition of the Whitefield Art Collective (WAC) will be taking place with the theme "Future is Now". This year's edition, supported by the Yuj Foundation, promises to be an immersive celebration of art, featuring over 100 installations, exclusive exhibitions, and global collaborations.
Where: VR Bengaluru, Whitefield Main Road;
When: March 27 to April 28

04 Health assessment

To mark 20 years of excellence, Samvaad Institute of Speech and Hearing offers a free assessment camp for vertigo and tinnitus. With cutting-edge technology, audiologists work closely with ENT doctors to determine the cause and plan the best course of treatment, whether medical or non-medical.
Where: Samvaad Institute of Speech and Hearing, Hebbal;
When: March 24 to 29

IT's alright, but in 5 years, 5,135 firms shut down

Karnataka's dominance in IT sector remains strong as it added 12,231 new companies in the period, second-highest number in country after Maharashtra

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Karnataka has experienced both significant gains and notable losses in its Information Technology (IT) sector over the past five years. While the state has added 12,231 new IT companies, making it the second-highest in India after Maharashtra, it also recorded the highest number of IT company closures, with 5,135 firms shutting down. This dual trend highlights the dynamic nature of Karnataka's IT landscape, where rapid growth is met with market challenges and structural shifts.

While presenting the data in the Lok Sabha on Monday, Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs Harsh Malhotra said that between 2019 and 2024, 30,108 IT companies shut down across India, with Karnataka, Maharashtra (4,482 closures), Delhi (4,098), Telangana (3,369), and Tamil Nadu (2,680) accounting for the majority of closures. The industry has witnessed fluctuations, with pandemic-related disruptions, global economic uncertainties, and shifting technology trends playing a crucial role. In 2019-20, 1,580 IT companies closed down, but this number dropped sharply to 247 in 2020-21, reflecting an 84.34% decline, possibly due to post-pandemic stabilization. However, closures surged to 1,298 in 2021-22, a 425.91% jump, pointing to the impact of business restructuring. The numbers then declined to 922 in 2022-23 (a 28.97% drop) and 648 in 2023-24 (a 29.70% drop), indicating a gradual stabilisation of the sector.

Despite fluctuations, Karnataka remains a major contributor to India's IT turnover

Karnataka IT companies: Year-wise shutdowns and new additions

Year	Shutdowns	New companies
2019-20	1,580	2,544
2020-21	247	3,021
2021-22	1,298	3,388
2022-23	922	2,789
2023-24	648	277
2024-25	440	212

In 2023-24, Karnataka recorded second-highest IT turnover after Maharashtra, with Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh following closely

Despite these fluctuations, Karnataka remains a major contributor to India's IT turnover. In 2023-24, Karnataka recorded the second-highest IT turnover after Maharashtra, with Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh following closely. Over the past five years, India's IT turnover has seen major variations, starting at Rs 19.25 lakh crore in 2019-20, but witnessing a sharp decline due to the pandemic, dropping to Rs 9.42 lakh crore in 2020-2, and further down to Rs 3.46 lakh crore in 2021-22. A recovery began in 2022-23 with Rs 2.40 lakh crore, and further improved to Rs 2.62 lakh crore in 2023-24, signaling a slow yet steady revival.

Growth of IT

Karnataka's IT growth has remained significant, with Bengaluru at the core of the industry's expansion. The state added 2,544 new IT companies in 2019-20, increasing to 3,021 in 2020-21, and peaking at 3,388 in 2021-22. However, the numbers declined to 2,789 in 2022-23, followed by a sharp fall to 277 in 2023-24, and 212 so far in 2024-25. This trend suggests a post-pandemic correction and possible market consolidation, but Karnataka continues to be a dominant force in India's IT landscape.
Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh remain the top five states in IT company growth. Maharashtra led with 12,750 new firms, followed closely by Karnataka with 12,231, and Telangana with 10,189. Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh secured the fourth and fifth places with 8,156 and 7,124 IT firms, respectively.

Focus on Bengaluru

Analysing the data, an expert said that Karnataka remains India's IT powerhouse, but the industry is undergoing a structural shift. The expert highlighted that despite attracting investments and talent, market saturation, funding issues, and tech trends are driving consolidation. "The sharp decline in new company formations and high closure rates indicate a maturing industry where only the most innovative and scalable firms thrive. However, Bengaluru's deep-tech ecosystem and AI-driven enterprises will ensure Karnataka stays at the forefront of India's digital economy," the expert added.

New multi-speciality health facility

Vyshnavi Hospitals has opened a new multi-speciality healthcare facility to cater to its patients. The inauguration event was attended by politicians PC Mohan, Tejaswi Surya, Kupendra Reddy, Satish Reddy, along with medical professionals and healthcare leaders. The facility offers medical services in Urology and Andrology, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Dermatology and Cosmetology, General Medicine, Emergency Care, and Orthopaedics. "Our mission is to make quality healthcare accessible. This facility is built to ensure that patients receive complete medical care under one roof," said Hari Prasad Shetty, Managing Director. Dr Prathik R, Medical Director- Urology and Andrology, said that the hospital is equipped to deliver specialized medical services. Dr Rakesh, Consultant, General Medicine, noted that the facility can manage various medical conditions, including 24/7 emergency care.

Guests attending the inauguration of Vyshnavi Hospital's new healthcare facility

–BMB

'Hike disability pension'

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People with disabilities, under Karnataka Angavikalara Rajya Okkoota, are planning a bike rally from Basavana Bagewadi to Vidhana Soudha to highlight their long-pending demands. Paul Ramanathan, Honorary President, Karnataka Angavikalara Rajya Okkoota, said that the pension given to people with disabilities is meager when compared to neighbouring states. "A person with more than 75 percent disability gets a monthly pension of Rs 1400, and a person with less than 75 percent and more than 40 percent disability will get a monthly pension of Rs 800. The people with disabilities in neighbouring states are getting Rs 4,000 to Rs 5,000 per month," he said.

Members of the Karnataka Angavikalara Rajya Okkoota at a press conference

Arun Kumar S, State Secretary of Karnataka Angavikalara Rajya Okkoota, highlighted that people with disabilities face significant hardships due to inadequate financial support, struggling to make ends meet on meager pension amounts. "People with disabilities more than 75 percent neither have the ability to work nor lead life with the meager pension of Rs 1400," he said.

The demands of people with disabilities include several crucial measures. They seek an increase in the monthly pension to Rs 6,000 for all individuals with disabilities, covering those with over 75%, as well as between 40% and 75% disability. They also urge the government to fill the backlog of jobs reserved for persons with disabilities. Additionally, they demand reserved seats in local bodies, assemblies, and parliament to ensure proper representation.

CRIME FILES

Fake guru casts spell to loot family

Woman alleges sexual assault too after having paid with valuables worth Rs 1.3 cr for havan to save husband's life

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A resident of Gayatri Nagar has lodged a complaint against self-proclaimed spiritual guru, Kiran Kumar Guruji, accusing him of orchestrating a fraudulent ritual scheme that led to financial exploitation and later escalated into threats and assault. The Subrahmanya Nagar police have registered an FIR against the alleged fake guru.

According to the complaint, Kiran Kumar allegedly manipulated the victim into believing that if a 'pooja havan' was not performed, her husband's life would be in danger as her family was under a spell of witchcraft. The accused convinced her to transfer Rs 3.75 lakh to his account, claiming that divine intervention was needed to ward off impending doom.

Under the pretense of spiritual offerings, the accused made the victim also buy expensive gold ornaments, including a Rudraksha garland, a gold ring, and multiple necklaces, totaling over 80 grams of gold, which were handed over to him. He also pressured her into selling off her assets, swindling her and her family out of a staggering Rs 1.3 crore. The fraud extended to multiple financial transactions, with large sums being extracted under various pretexts.

Despite these offerings, the woman saw no resolution to her problems and demanded her money back. Instead of addressing her concerns, the man is alleged to have sexually assaulted her. The complaint states that when she confronted him at his residence on January 21, he physically assaulted her, while another accused, Lohit, reportedly dragged her by the hair and threatened to harm her family. The threats escalated on February 7, when rowdies were allegedly sent to her home to intimidate her into silence. A police complaint has been registered.

2 arrested for brandishing sword for reel

The Basaveshwara Nagar Police have arrested two men for brandishing a prohibited weapon in an Instagram reel, creating panic among the public. The accused, identified as Bigg Boss contestants Rajat Kishan Ji and Vinay Gowda, were taken into custody after a video surfaced showing them posing with a long, a prohibited weapon in a public place.

According to the report submitted by Bhanu Prakash, Police Sub-Inspector (PSI) of Basaveshwara Nagar Police Station, his team, including officers Shashidhar Nayak, Manikanth, and Venkatesh, and he were monitoring social media on March 20, when they came across a video uploaded by an Instagram account named "bujji". The reel featured a person identified as Rajat Kishan holding a long, alongside Vinay Gowda, in a public place. The duo allegedly aimed to create an atmosphere of fear and disturb public peace.

The video, approximately 18 seconds long, was uploaded to social media, showcasing the individuals walking while holding the weapon. Police officials noted that such actions violate public safety norms and legal provisions. The police have submitted the video as evidence and have filed a complaint, urging further legal action against the accused.

Following the discovery, the police filed a complaint and issued a notice summoning Rajat for questioning. However, he failed to appear, citing an ongoing shoot. Instead, his wife, Akshata, appeared before the authorities. Despite his initial evasion, both Rajat and Vinay were ultimately taken into custody.

Trio selling fake gold bricks arrested

Three men from Bihar were arrested by the Central Crime Branch (CCB) police for attempting to sell bricks and wooden planks coated with gold claiming that it was from a hidden treasure.

The accused, Rabiqul Islam, Yiddish Ali, and Anwar Hussain, who used to work in a hotel under Madiwala police station limits, spun an elaborate tale about stumbling upon a gold treasure while laying the foundation of a house. To lure unsuspecting victims, they claimed they were willing to sell the treasure for half the market price of gold.

To make their scam appear legitimate, the trio first handed over a couple of grams of genuine gold. Once their target was convinced, they attempted to sell fake gold-coated bricks and wooden planks, which were polished by skilled craftsmen to resemble authentic gold bars.

According to police officials, the accused employed skilled craftsmen to polish wooden planks and bricks with gold, making them appear authentic.

They frequently changed the pickup location, creating an illusion of secrecy and urgency to deceive potential buyers.

However, their tactics raised suspicion when they repeatedly changed the meeting location for handing over the gold, making potential buyers uneasy. Acting on a tip-off, the CCB police launched a raid in Koramangala, catching the fraudsters red-handed.

During the operation, police seized 970 grams of fake gold, a vehicle, and three mobile phones used in the crime.

FIR against 5 in students' attack case

An FIR has been filed against five persons after a video of a group attacking two SSLC students in Chandra Layout went viral last week.

The victims, aged 16 and 17, were reportedly assaulted with sticks, and sustained injuries to their hands and neck. Despite their pleas for mercy, the attackers showed no restraint. The injured students are currently undergoing treatment at Victoria Hospital.

Following a complaint filed by the father of the 17-year-old victim, the Chandra Layout police registered an FIR against five individuals, including two identified as Sufyan and Zubair, while three others remain unidentified.

Initial reports suggest that the attack stemmed from a personal dispute. The two minors were allegedly following a girl their age under the pretense of being someone named Preetha. When this matter came to light, the girl's family members reportedly retaliated with violence. —BMB

Factory owner hacked to death

A father-son duo murdered a 52-year-old factory owner over a financial dispute near Kadabagere Cross on the outskirts of the city, within the Madanayakanahalli police limits in the Nelamangala sub-division, on Sunday.

The deceased, identified as RR Ramesh, was the owner of RR Industries. The accused, Syed Tajuddin (50) and his son Syed Ayub, both hailing from Hassan, had moved to Bengaluru in search of work. Ramesh had provided them with employment and awarded them a mess contract for his warehouse. He also advanced Rs 6 lakh to help them start the work. However, once they received the money, the duo failed to fulfill their obligations. They rarely reported to work and, when confronted, refused to return the money. The dispute escalated over time, with Ramesh repeatedly demanding that they either complete the job or refund the amount. Instead of complying, the accused allegedly threatened him. On Sunday afternoon, another argument broke out between Ramesh and the father-son duo. In a fit of rage, Tajuddin and Ayub attacked Ramesh with weapons, hacking him to death on the spot. After committing the gruesome act, the duo fled the scene. —BMB

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IT hub leads ₹390-crore property tax shortfall

Despite its 81,481 properties in arrears, Mahadevapura also generates Rs 928 cr in taxes

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Mahadevapura, Bengaluru's tech corridor, leads all Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) zones in property tax collection, generating ₹928.50 crore. However, it also has the highest default amount at Rs 32.17 crore, making up 3.46% of its total demand of ₹960.66 crore as of March 22. The zone, home to IT hubs, commercial establishments, and high-end residential properties, has 81,481 properties in arrears.

Notably, vacant properties account for the largest outstanding amount at ₹39.32 crore, indicating underutilised or speculative holdings. While residential and mixed-use properties show better compliance, non-residential properties have a negative balance of ₹44.67 crore, likely due to reassessments and disputes. A BBMP official noted, "Despite being a revenue powerhouse, Mahadevapura's high default rate highlights enforcement gaps and delayed payments, even from the city's most commercially valuable zone."

Among BBMP zones, East follows Mahadevapura with Rs 25.81 crore spending, or 3.98% of the Rs 675.21 crore demanded, with Rs 649.40 crore collected and 46,153 properties overdue. The South zone has ₹23.84 crore outstanding (4.22% of ₹589.45 crores demanded), with 32,186 properties overdue. The West zone has ₹21.90 crore pending (5.32% of ₹433.46 crore demanded), with 32,526 properties overdue. Yelahanka has Rs 15.85 crore pending (4.44% of ₹357.17 crore collected from Rs 341.32 crore demanded) with 36,722 overdue properties.

RR Nagar has Rs 16.30 crore outstanding, or 6.49% of the ₹267.40 crore demanded, with Rs 251.10 crore collected and 47,873 properties overdue. Bommanahalli zone has the highest outstanding balance percentage at ₹41.53 crore (9.38% of ₹442.07 crore demanded), with 57,786 properties overdue. Dasarahalli has the lowest pending balance at ₹10.74 crore (8.94% of ₹120.97 crores demanded), with 14,286 properties overdue. Overall, ₹156.43 crore remain uncollected across all zones, representing 4.26% of the total ₹3,674.12 crore collected.

BBMP is facing a staggering ₹390 crore shortfall in property tax collections, with 3.49 lakh property owners defaulting. Special Commissioner (Revenue) Munish Moudgil revealed that out of 20.5 lakh property owners, 1.73 lakh are chronic defaulters, while 1.76 lakh have defaulted on their 2024-25 payments. "Despite multiple notices, SMS alerts, IVRS calls, personal follow-ups, and even attachment notices, these chronic defaulters continue to evade payment. BBMP had introduced a One-Time Settlement (OTS) scheme, but many refused to avail of it, highlighting their deliberate and persistent non-compliance. It is unfair to let chronic defaulters go scot-free while 90% of taxpayers fulfil their obligations," he stated.

File photo of Mahadevapura that is home to IT hubs, commercial establishments, residential properties

> **"Despite being a revenue powerhouse, Mahadevapura's high default rate highlights enforcement gaps and delayed payments"** –BBMP official

Records were broken in March rain

Bengaluru witnessed heavy rainfall on Saturday, with Yelahanka Airbase recording 6 cm of rain—the second-highest 24-hour rainfall in March, according to the IMD. The city's highest-ever March rainfall was 6.1 cm on March 28, 1981, making Saturday's downpour an unusual event. Such intense rainfall during March has been rare in the past decade, with previous notable instances including 3.8 cm on March 17, 2017, 3.6 cm on March 8, 2017, 2.2 cm on March 3, 2015, and 1.4 cm on March 24, 2020. In most other years, March rainfall remained below 1 cm. The downpour, accompanied by strong winds, uprooted 65 trees and snapped 202 branches across the city, disrupting traffic in areas like Kogilu Cross, Veerannapalya, Sarjapur Main Road, and Outer Ring Road. BBMP cleared 62 trees and 177 branches to restore movement and has announced compensation for the family of a child who died after being struck by a falling tree branch. –BMB

'Time to talk honey trap, but not to spare a thought for Nandi Hills'

The state government has not taken measures to protect Nandi Hills and its decision to construct the ropeway will ruin the environment as it requires cutting of rock, according to environmentalist Dr AN Yellappa Reddy.

Speaking to the media on Monday, Dr Yellappa Reddy urged the state government to focus on protecting Nandi Hills rather than constructing a ropeway for tourists. "It is disturbing that no elected representative raised the issue of Nandi Hills in the Assembly. They are busy discussing unrelated matters like the honey trap scandal. If elected representatives cannot save Nandi Hills, I urge the people to protest against the ropeway project," he said. Dr Reddy also expressed concerns over the proposal for a second airport in Bengaluru, stating, "There is no need for another airport at the cost of cutting down trees."

Dr AN Yellappa Reddy and others at a media interaction on Monday

Bart S. Fisher, a two-time Nobel Prize nominee and Chairman of the Give Life Foundation, urged people to step forward to protect Nandi Hills. "I have travelled from Washington to Bengaluru to support the movement to save Nandi Hills. I will take steps to secure UNESCO World Heritage Site status for the region," S Fisher said.

Meanwhile, Universal Human Rights Service Foundation honorary president Manjunath Hegde said the agitation to protect Nandi Hills has received support from sectors. "We will fight legally against cutting of trees at Nandi Hills," Hegde said. –BMB

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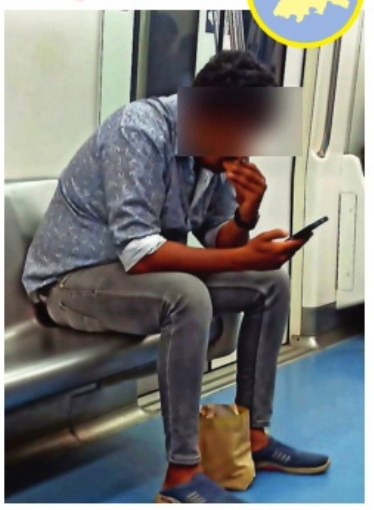
Rule violation
JP Nagar Metro

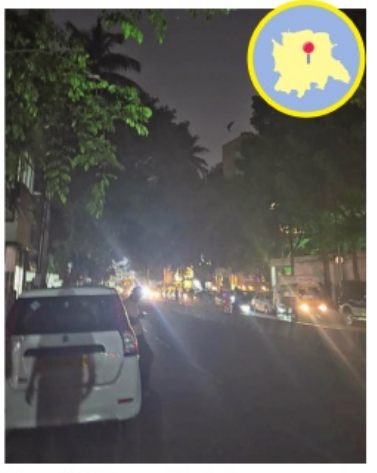


Passengers were seen eating inside a Green Line metro train near JP Nagar, heading towards Silk Institute, on March 23 at 7:15 PM. Leftover food was littered inside the train, with no officials present to intervene. Can BMRCL take action to prevent such incidents?

Waste zone
KR Market

A heap of unattended garbage has piled up near the entrance of a hospital, opposite KR Market Metro Station (near the Fort entrance). The foul smell and unhygienic conditions are causing inconvenience to pedestrians and BMTC commuters. The issue was observed on Sunday.

Street danger
Venkataswamy Naidu Road



Streetlights on Venkataswamy Naidu Road, Tasker Town, have been non-functional for five months, leaving the area in darkness. Urgent action is needed to ensure public safety.

Post Cauvery Aarti, littered premises raise concerns

Event received approval with specific conditions to protect area, however, locals note that these conditions were not fully met, with cleanup efforts remaining incomplete in several areas

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The Cauvery Aarti, conducted at Sankey Tank on March 21, has left behind large amounts of waste on the premises. The event, which attracted thousands of participants, resulted in leftover damaged flower beds, unattended food wrappers, plastic bottles, gunny bags, and discarded clothes strewn inside the lake boundary.

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), which organized the event, received last-minute approval from the Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority (KTCDA). However, the permission was granted with specific conditions outlined by the KTCDA. One of the 12 conditions required that the physical structure and order of the lake be preserved following the program.

The permission letter, a copy of which is with Bangalore Mirror, stated that on the next day of the event, the Executive Engineer (designated officer), under the supervision of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), should ensure that the lake is cleaned of all garbage and waste generated during the event. Yet, the aftermath seems to be different.

“Aside from the garbage accumulation, a considerable area of flower bed has also been destroyed due to mobile toilets

Food wrappers, plastic bottles, gunny bags, and discarded clothes strewn around the lake premises after the event

Residents express disappointment

A senior citizen noted their surprise at the condition of the walkway on Monday morning, observing that a significant amount of garbage had been left behind.

“I am not aware which authority of the government agency is responsible for cleaning it. However, what is concerning is that we were promised that the lake would be returned to us in its original condition. Sadly, that is not the case at all,” the senior citizen said.

Locals said that while the lake area towards Malleswaram has been cleaned, the rest has been neglected. They also noted that aside from the garbage accumulation, a considerable area of flower bed has been destroyed due to mobile toilets.

“Three to four mobile toilets were placed directly on the flower bed, damaging it beyond repair. The noise and light pollution was so high that it would have adversely impacted birds and animals. We worry that the event will become an annual affair,” said another resident.

Residents of Sadashiva Nagar and Malleshwaram said that they underwent an ordeal of five nights due to the event. A resident observed that, in addition to the problems due to garbage, they also had to endure loud noises from late-night preparations for the Aarti.

“Preparations three days before the event, and dismantling and cleaning of the lake area on two nights after the event went on between 12 midnight and 5 am. A resident who returned to the city on March 21 at night had to rent a room to spend the night before she could return home on the 22nd morning,” the resident said.

BMTC deploys mobile repair vans

Bengaluru’s rising traffic congestion is often worsened by Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) bus breakdowns, causing long vehicle pile-ups and commuter inconvenience. To address this, BMTC has introduced mobile repair vans across key city locations.

BMTC Managing Director R Ramachandran noted that currently, BMTC operates 6,835 buses, completing an average of 5,875 trips daily, including 1,336 electric buses, with plans to expand the fleet. He said that given the increasing traffic density, even minor breakdowns lead to major disruptions.

To mitigate this, BMTC has deployed seven mobile repair vans, two existing ones covering Marathahalli and KBS, and five newly added for Shivajinagar, Yeshwanthpur, Jayanagar/Banashankari, Silk Board, and Nayandahalli Junction.

“These vans, Ashok Leyland “Dost Strong-LS” models, are designed for quick on-site repairs and are equipped with hydraulic jacks, spare batteries, tyres, cables, and emergency tools. They also feature automatic location tracking and a panic button for efficiency and safety,” he said.

He stated that the initiative aims to ensure smoother traffic flow and minimize delays caused by bus breakdowns. **BMB**

No withdrawals until April 8

The Karnataka Government informed the High Court on Monday that until April 8, it would not withdraw prosecution of criminal cases against influential individuals under Section 321 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

Section 321 CrPC permits Public Prosecutors or Assistant Public Prosecutors to withdraw from prosecution before judgment pronouncement, subject to Court consent, either generally or for specific offences.

The statement came during a public interest litigation hearing by Girish Bharadwaj, challenging a government directive for prosecutors to withdraw 43 cases involving influential persons, including politicians, accused of offences like rioting and attempt to murder, allegedly violating Section 321 CrPC.

The petition concerns 43 selected cases for withdrawal from various police stations between 2008 to 2023, seeking to nullify an order dated 15 October 2024. In the previous hearing, the Court acknowledged the petitioner’s counsel’s argument about governmental overreach in directing case withdrawals, violating Section 321 CrPC. **BMB**

Court empowers women lawyers

The Supreme Court on Monday reserved the position of treasurer for women, along with 30 percent of seats in the executive committee of bar councils in Karnataka’s district courts.

The bench comprising Justice Surya Kant and Justice N Kotiswar Singh stated that the direction issued in the Advocate Association of Bengaluru case applies equally to Karnataka’s district courts.

The top court’s order came after women lawyers from Bengaluru sought a similar direction passed by the court on January 24 in the case of the Advocate Association of Bengaluru (AAB), where the court had reserved 33 percent of seats for women advocates.

The counsel appearing for women lawyers said that for the High Court Bar Association, the election was held and the post of treasurer was won by a woman candidate.

On January 24, exercising its plenary powers, the top court reserved for women lawyers the post of treasurer in the Advocate Association of Bengaluru (AAB). **BMB**

Custodial questioning deemed crucial

The Karnataka High Court has emphasised that courts should be cautious whilst granting anticipatory bail, particularly in cyber economic offences, noting that custodial questioning is essential in such technical cases to gather crucial information.

Justice Mohammad Nawaz made this observation whilst rejecting a petition by Prabhat Sharma and Akash Patil seeking anticipatory bail. The duo stands accused of stealing data, including proprietary software and designs for high-altitude drones developed by a private company used by Indian defence forces for border security. The bench stated the petitioner’s actions show their ability and willingness to destroy and tamper with evidence. “Granting anticipatory bail could jeopardize investigation and may frustrate the investigating agency in interrogating the accused and collecting useful information and may weaken the ability of law enforcement agencies to combat sophisticated cyber crimes,” the bench said.

The accused face charges under Section 66(B), 66(C) of Information Technology Act, 2000 and Section 318(2) (3) (4) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. Sameer Joshi, CEO of NewSpace Research and Technologies Pvt Ltd, alleged in his complaint that the accused, former employees, colluded to steal sensitive information to benefit their current employer, Lenviz Technologies Pvt Ltd.

The bench acknowledged that whilst considering bail applications, courts should avoid detailed evidence assessment. However, they may examine prima facie issues regarding reasonable grounds for the accused’s involvement. It was concluded that a prima facie case existed against the petitioners, and pre-arrest bail could hinder the investigation. It was noted that preliminary findings showed the petitioners’ continued access to proprietary information post-resignation, indicating deliberate misappropriation. The petition was subsequently dismissed. **BMB**

ONE RULE AT A TIME
STORY & ART BY PINAK
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SUNDAY! PERFECT FOR A LONG WALK TO THE PARK NEARBY. MAN, I BET THE CITY COUNCIL HAS FNALLY FXED ALL THE POTHOLES. NO MORE SURPRISE MUD BATHS TODAY!
ER...THEY MUST'VE BEEN TOO BUSY... SOLVING THE GARBAGE PROBLEM TO NOTICE THIS ONE, PRIORITIES, RIGHT?
WHO AM I KIDDING? THEY HAVE BIGGER ISSUES. IM JUST EXPECTING ROADS AND CLEANLINESS SILLY ME!
AH YES... SOLVING THE REAL PROBLEMS... HMM... TRULY ON THE PATH TO BECOMING A FRST-WORLD COUNTRY... YES YES!
ANTI-CLOCKWISE WALKING IN THE PARK IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.
MORNING: 6AM-10AM
EVENING: 4PM-6:30PM
@pinakahlawat

For more of the artist's work, scan this QR code & To give BM a follow, scan this QR code

BBMP reports drop in TB cases

BBMP's TB battle: cases drop, screenings surge, 2025 goal in sight!

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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BBMP has recorded a decline in tuberculosis (TB) cases, with numbers dropping from 15,543 in 2023 to 14,059 in 2024, while TB-related deaths have reduced from 750 to 702 during the same period. Chief Health Officer Dr Syed Sirajuddin Madani emphasised that eradicating TB is not solely the responsibility of healthcare workers but requires active public participation. He stressed the need for greater awareness, highlighting that TB can only be cured if patients complete their prescribed six-month medication course without fail.

As part of India's National TB Elimination Program (NTEP), BBMP provides free TB diagnosis and treatment across its healthcare network, which includes 143 Primary Health Centres, six Community Health Centres, 26 Maternity Centres, 230 Namma Clinics, and 10 Medical Colleges. Additionally, the public sector has 147 Microscopy Centres, 10 CBNAAT Centres, and 12 TRUENAAT Centres, with similar facilities available in private hospitals. Under the Prime Minister's TB-Free India Campaign, 3,120 TB patients have received 11,598 nutrition kits donated by Nikshay Mitras (sponsors) since 2023.

A healthcare official hands over a nutrition kit and flower to a TB patient as part of BBMP's TB-Free drive

The recently concluded 100-day TB campaign, conducted from December 7, 2024, to March 18, 2025, exceeded screening targets, reaching 13,13,902 individuals—116% of the initial goal. A total of 18,400 microscopy tests, 28,600 NAAT tests, and 12,500 X-rays were conducted, identifying 4,010 TB-positive cases. BBMP aims to accelerate its intitative, moving closer to its goal of achieving TB-free status by 2025.

K'taka U-turn on NH-766 closure

The State Government has withdrawn a counter affidavit filed by its forest department, which stated that the NH-766 stretch passing through Bandipur Tiger Reserve could be permanently closed once an alternative road is completed. The affidavit had placed the Congress in a tough spot in Wayanad, as MP Priyanka Gandhi had promised during her campaign to push for lifting the night traffic ban on the route.

Bandipur Tiger Reserve Director Prabhakaran S had filed the affidavit in the Supreme Court on March 21, stating that Karnataka was ready to shut NH-766 for all but emergency and local traffic once the elevated road was built. He also pointed out that the state had spent 75 crore to develop the alternative SH-88, which is already used exclusively.

BM Trippin' Tales

Consumer Connect Initiative

Ancient inscriptions, sacred temples, and scenic views await at Hulukudi hill

With lush greenery, a serene Kalyani, and an annual chariot festival, this spiritual retreat attracts visitors seeking history, nature, and divine peace

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Hulukudi Hill, located in the Bengaluru Rural district, is a hidden gem offering a perfect blend of natural beauty and rich historical significance. Just 16 km from Doddaballapur taluk center, the hill is easily accessible via well-laid steps, inviting visitors to immerse themselves in the tranquil surroundings. At the summit, you will find the revered Sri Veerabhadra Swamy Temple, surrounded by captivating wild shrubs and scenic vistas. The hill falls under the Sakregollahalli grama panchayat and attracts both tourists and pilgrim's eager to explore its unique charm.

A journey through history and spirituality

Hulukudi Hill is not just a natural wonder but also a site steeped in history. Once ruled by the Hulukudi chieftains during the Vijayanagara Empire, the hill features ancient inscriptions dating back to the Ganga and Hoysala dynasties. At the heart of its spiritual allure is the cave temple of Sri Veerabhadra Swamy, which enshrines a statue from the Chola period. The area surrounding the hill is home to eleven temples, and it is believed that circumnavigating the 8 km perimeter of the hill is akin to performing a holy pilgrimage around Mount Kailash.

The well-laid stone steps leading to the revered Sri Veerabhadra Swamy Temple atop Hulukudi Hill

Natural beauty all year round

The hill is adorned with lush wild shrubs and greenery that shimmer in the early morning light, making it a picturesque destination for nature lovers. A Kalyani (water tank) at the foot of the hill adds to the scenic appeal, offering a peaceful retreat for visitors. According to the tourism department, the hill attracts between 500 and 1,000 visitors each month, drawn by its serene atmosphere and spiritual significance.

Must-visit pilgrimage site

For centuries, devotees have made the pilgrimage to the Sri Veerabhadra Swamy Temple, and the site continues to be a spiritual beacon for many. The annual Ratha Saptami chariot festival is a major event that draws large crowds, adding to the hill's vibrant cultural significance. "The pilgrimage experience at Hulukudi Hill is truly refreshing, especially during the misty winter months when the hill shines brilliantly," shares Keshav Murthy, a regular pilgrim.

Whether you are a history enthusiast, a nature lover, or a spiritual seeker, Hulukudi Hill offers an enriching experience with its stunning landscapes and deep-rooted heritage.

HEALTH TIP: Studies show that PCOS accounts for about 72 to 82 percent of excessive hair growth cases

Olive oil, particularly extra virgin olive oil, is a healthy fat for the body, and it can aid in losing weight

A MEMORY THAT DOESN'T EXIST?

Why memory researchers reject the idea of recovered memories of trauma

In 1990, George Franklin was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison based on the testimony of his 28-year-old daughter Eileen. She described seeing him rape her best friend and then smash her skull with a rock.

When Eileen testified at her father's trial, her memory of the murder was relatively fresh. It was less than a year old. Yet the murder happened 20 years earlier, when she was 8 years old.

How can you have a one-year-old memory of something that happened 20 years ago? According to the prosecution, Eileen repressed her memory of the murder. Then much later she recovered it in complete detail.

Can a memory of something so harrowing disappear for two decades and then resurface in a reliable form?

This case launched a huge debate between memory researchers like me who argue there is no credible scientific evidence that repressed memories exist and practicing clinicians who claim that repressed memories are real.

This controversy is not merely an academic one. Real people's lives have been shattered by newly recollected traumatic experiences from childhood. I've seen this firsthand as a memory expert who consults on legal cases involving defendants accused of crimes they allegedly committed years or even decades ago. Often the only evidence linking the defendant to the crime is a recovered memory.

But the scientific community disagrees about the existence of the phenomenon of repressed memory.

Freud was the father of repression

Nineteenth-century psychoanalytic theorist Sigmund Freud developed the concept of repression. He considered it a defense mechanism people use to protect themselves from traumatic experiences that become too overwhelming.

The idea is that repression buries memories of trauma in your unconscious, where they – unlike other memories – reside unknown to you. They remain hidden, in a pristine, fixed form.

In Freud's view, repressed memories make themselves known by leaking out in mental and physical symptoms – symptoms that can be relieved only through recovering the traumatic memory in a safe psychological environment.

In the 1980s, increasing numbers of therapists became concerned about the prevalence of child sexual abuse and the historical tendencies to dismiss or hide the maltreatment of children. This shift gave new life to the concept of repression.

Rise of repressed memory recovery

Therapists in this camp told clients that their symptoms, such as anxiety, depression or eating disorders, were the result of repressed memories of childhood sexual abuse that needed to be remembered to heal. To recover these memories, therapists used a range of techniques such as hypnosis, suggestive questioning, repeated imagining, bodywork and group sessions.

Did recovered-memory therapy work? Many people who entered therapy for common mental health issues did come out with new and unexpected memories of childhood sexual abuse and other trauma, without physical evidence or corroboration from others.

But were these memories real?

The notion of repressed memories runs counter to decades of scientific evidence demonstrating that traumatic events tend to be very well remembered over long intervals of time. Many victims of documented trauma, ranging from the Holocaust to combat exposure, torture and natural disasters, do not appear to be able to block out their memories.

In fact, trauma sometimes is too well remembered, as in the case of post-traumatic stress disorder. Recurrent and intrusive traumatic memories are a core symptom of PTSD.

No memory ? repressed memory

There are times when victims of trauma may not remember what happened. But this doesn't necessarily mean the memory has been repressed. There are a range of alternative explanations for not remembering traumatic experiences.

Trauma, like anything you experience, can be forgotten as the result of memory decay. Details fade with time, and retrieving the right remnants of experience becomes increasingly difficult if not impossible.

Someone might make the deliberate choice to not think about upsetting events. Psychologists call this motivated forgetting or suppression.

There also are biological causes of forgetting such as brain injury and substance abuse.

Trauma also can interfere with the making of a memory in the first place. When stress becomes too big or too prolonged, attention can shift from the experience itself to attempts to regulate emotion, endure what's happening or even survive. This narrow focus can result in little to no memory of what happened.

False memories

If science rejects the notion of repressed memories, there's still one question to confront: Where do newly recollected trauma memories, such as those triggered in recovered-memory therapy, come from?

All memories are subject to distortions when you mistakenly incorporate expectations, assumptions or information from others that was not part of the original event.

Memory researchers contend that memory recovery techniques might actually create false memories of things that never happened rather than resurrect existing memories of real experiences.

To study this possibility, researchers asked participants to elaborate on events that never happened using the same sorts of suggestive questioning techniques used by recovered-memory therapists.

What they found was startling. They were able to induce richly detailed false memories of a wide range of childhood traumatic experiences, such as choking, hospitalization and being a victim of a serious animal attack, in almost one-third of participants.

These researchers were intentionally planting false memories. But I don't think intention would be necessary on the part of a sympathetic therapist working with a suffering client.

Are the memory wars over?

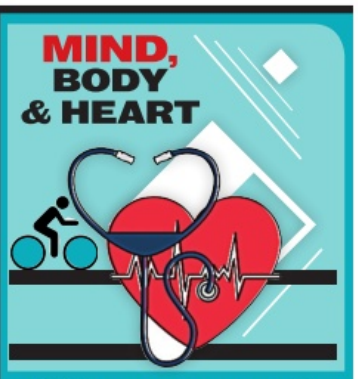
The belief in repressed memories remains well entrenched among the general public and mental health professionals. More than half believe that traumatic experiences can become repressed in the unconscious, where they lurk, waiting to be uncovered.

This remains the case even though in his later work, Freud revised his original concept of repression to argue that it doesn't work on actual memories of experiences, but rather involves the inhibition of certain impulses, desires and fantasies. This revision rarely makes it into popular conceptions of repression.

As evidence of the current widespread belief in repressed memories, in the past few years several U.S. states and European countries have extended or abolished the statute of limitations for the prosecution of sexual crimes, which allows for testimony based on allegedly recovered memories of long-ago crimes.

Given the ease with which researchers can create false childhood memories, one of the unforeseen consequences of these changes is that falsely recovered memories of abuse might find their way into court – potentially leading to unfounded accusations and wrongful convictions.

(Gabrielle Principe, College of Charleston, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Banana peel benefits

For flawless skin
Beauty ingredients in banana peel like carbohydrates, Vitamin B6, B12, potassium, and magnesium help in cell regeneration and smoothen the skin surface.

1. Reduce wrinkles
Vitamin C and antioxidants present in them reduce the appearance of wrinkles and keep skin fresh and glowing. It also reduces the rashes and marks on the face naturally. This simple face mask can be prepared with a ripened banana peel. The ripened banana peel has Ethylene which is responsible for turning complex sugars into simple, and also responsible for the brown spots. Esterified fatty acids present in them react to diminish the scar and marks. This acid is also extracted and used in various skin care lotions.
Tip: Here's a quick anti-ageing banana mask you can try:
Scrape the inner part from the banana peel using a fork.
Mix it with egg yolk.
Apply on your face and rinse after 5 min.
Repeat twice in a week.

2. Puffy Eyes And Dark Circles
Cutting a banana peel into thin layers and placing them below your eyes could reduce dark circles. With the lockdown our screen time has definitely increased; banana peel can act as a tool that provides much-needed coolness and freshness to our eyes.
Tip: Mix it with aloe vera gel and place it for an hour or overnight under the eyes.

3. Itchy Skin And Acne Breakout
Histamine and vitamin C&E in the peel relieve itchy skin by acting as a moisturising agent and neutralising the acid formed. Owing to its oil-controlling abilities, banana peel can also be used to slough off excess sebum.

—Femina

'Will take legal action for misquoting me': Shivakumar on Muslim quota remarks

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said on Monday that he will take legal action against the BJP for misquoting him over Muslim quota remarks.

"I will initiate a breach of privilege motion and take legal action for misquoting me. The BJP is misquoting me and distorting my words. Congress understands the Constitution and how it functions. The BJP is deliberately misrepresenting my words and I will take legal action against this breach of privilege," Shivakumar stated.

He added that Congress will protect the Constitution and it is the party's responsibility and birthright.

"We helped frame the Constitution, and we will safeguard it," Shivakumar said.

The Deputy Chief Minister said he is a senior and sensible politician with more experience than Union Minister and BJP President JP Nadda.

"I merely mentioned in a casual manner that several changes have been made following judicial verdicts. Whatever reservations are provided are within the quota of backward classes. I never said that Congress would amend the Constitution. I only pointed out that, based on judicial rulings, some constitutional amendments have been made in the past. That is all. If the BJP is happy misinterpreting my words, they can do as they please," Shivakumar said.

He further accused the BJP of "misleading" the country for political gains, claiming that their popularity is declining with each passing day.

"If the BJP does not take the name of the Gandhi family, they won't be able to sleep at night. It is a political conspiracy against me and my party. However, since the matter is being discussed in Parliament, they have certain protections," he said.

Meanwhile, Congress MLC BK Hariprasad also clarified that Shivakumar might have mistakenly used the phrase "change of Constitution" instead of "amendment of Constitution."

He emphasised that no one can change the Constitution and that a Muslim quota does not require a constitutional amendment, as it can be implemented through existing legal provisions.

Reacting to the controversy, BJP State President BY Vijayendra said that Shivakumar's statement exposes the Congress party's real intentions, which are to amend the Constitution for Muslim appeasement.

"It also reflects the lack of respect Congress leaders have for BR Ambedkar," he added.

Won't allow House to function if suspension of 18 MLAs not revoked: BJP

BJP workers seek withdrawal of suspension of the party's MLAs at Mysuru, on Monday

The BJP in Karnataka on Monday warned the ruling Congress that it would not allow the legislative session to proceed if the suspension of its 18 MLAs was not revoked.

The party alleged Congress intends to run the House without BJP legislators.

On the last day of the Karnataka Assembly session on March 21, 18 BJP MLAs were suspended for their unruly behaviour while protesting against the four per cent reservation granted to Muslims in government contracts under the 2B category of the Other Backward Castes (OBC).

The ruling Congress passed a bill on the quota. During the protest, BJP MLAs climbed onto the podium where Speaker U T Khader was seated, tore copies of the bill, and threw the pieces at him. Taking serious note of their actions, the Assembly passed a resolution moved by State Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil, suspending the 18 BJP MLAs for six months.

Speaking to reporters on Monday, Leader of Opposition R Ashoka said that his party's MLAs were fighting to uphold the Constitution. "I warn the Congress that our struggle will only intensify if the suspension is not revoked. Let's see how you (Congress) run the legislative session in the future," the BJP leader said.

He accused the Congress, which frequently invokes the name of B R Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, of "disregarding" his views that religion-based reservations should not be granted. "We fought in the Assembly to protect constitutional values. Did we fight for the BJP or individual MLAs? No. Our struggle was to uphold the Constitution," Ashoka stated. **PTI**

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I, PUSHPALATHA W/o HARISH J C R/o Flat NO 12 1ST main Road near Anweshana Montessori School Prakruthi Layout Hennur Bangalore-560043.I have changed my name to PUSHPALATHA JONNALAGADDA HARISH vide affidavit dated: 24/03/2025 Before Notary B M CHANDRASHEKAR Bangalore.

I Rahul Dev Kanakapura Madaiah S/o Madaiah Kanakapura Residing At,No 10/29,6Th Cross,2Nd Main,Ravi School Road,Kurubarahalli, Bengaluru 560086 have changed my name to Rahul Madaiah, For All Purposes.

I, PRIYA COLLATHUR THIRUNARAYANAN, D/o C G Thirunarayanan, R/o 123/5, 6th Cross, Maruthi Nilaya, Kaggadasapura, C V Raman Nagar Post, Bengaluru – 560093, have changed my name as PRIYA THIRUNARAYANAN, vide affidavit dated 24.03.2025 sworn before notary Thippeswamy. T, Bengaluru.

I, Sumica Arigam R/a Bosch Residence, No.11, 8th Cross Road, Victoria Layout, Bengaluru - 560047. Have Changed To SUMICA SHARMA. Vide Affi Dt: 24.03.2025. Sworn Before Notary : Devaraju.E

I Jitendra Kumar Champaklal Israni Jain S/O, Champaklal R/o No 10/82, Rathna Vilas Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore - 560004. Karnataka have changed my name to Jitendrakumar Champaklal Israni

I Shri Surendra Kumar S/O, Pannalal Varma R/o A307 Svs Silverwoods Whitefield Road Palm Meadows Ramagonadanahalli Bangalore 500066 have changed my name to Surendra Kumar Varma.

I, Shabeerullah Khan S S/o Saleem Khan R/o # 1111 Ameer Compound Vijinapura Dastagir Road Doorvaninagar Post Bangalore-560016 have changed my name to Shabeerullah Khan for all purpose

I, Somanna Narayanagowda S/o Narayanagowda.P R/o Naganala Village, Medihala Post,Kolar 563102,Ka have changed my name to Somashekar Narayanagowda for all purposes.

I, Boomija arvind W/o Arvind Rajan R/o 97, 10Th A Cross,3Rd Main, Prashanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560079 have changed my name to Boomija S.

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Nothing but the hole truth

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Habiba Subhan, organising secretary of Pulikeshi Nagar Residents Welfare Association.

The BBMP has taken up white-topping of MM Road, Netaji Road, and Mosque Road. Residents of the area told BM that they urge the BBMP to complete the work as early as possible. "One person fell into a pit dug up for white-topping work on MM Road. The BBMP officials got around to closing the pit only after we sent a video. I do not know what prevented the authorities concerned from barricading the dug up portion of the road to avoid people falling and getting injured," Subhan said.

A resident, on the condition of anonymity, blamed the BBMP engineers for lack of quality in the on-going white-topping works. "We are not sure when the on-going works will be completed. We are suffering due to dust and traffic jams in the area," he said.

Palani N, another resident of the area, said the roads and footpaths in the locality certainly need improvement but the development of roads and footpaths should not be a nuisance and inconvenience for pedestrians and motorists. "It has become a habit for BBMP authorities to neglect the ongoing white-topping works. There is no supervision or monitoring by the BBMP engineers," the resident said.

Meanwhile, BBMP Executive Engineer and Nodal Officer for Pulikeshi Nagar ward said that he would inform the engineer concerned to barricade the dug-up stretch of the road for white-topping.

629 trees to be removed from Army Service Corps land

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

approached BBMP, seeking permission to remove trees for various developmental projects.

Notably, the Army Service Corps (ASC) center (North) had submitted an application under Section 8 of the Karnataka Preservation of Tree Act regarding the removal of 1,730 trees for infrastructure development to accommodate 3,000 troops, enhance training capability, and improve administrative efficiency. During a field inspection by a tree officer, 109 additional trees were found standing within the project area.

While a majority of the trees proposed for felling are Teak and Eucalyptus, other species such as rain tree, Ashoka, Peepal, Jamun, and Subabul are also included.

Similarly, a request to remove 101 trees was submitted from the Air Force Station in Jalahalli. Out of these 76 trees have been permitted to be felled.

"The two defence campuses alone wanted the removal of nearly 2,000 trees. It is also important to note that while public notices inviting objections are put out by the Forest Department of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) even in the case of defence campuses, it is difficult to access the locations to file objections.

More often than not, few objections are filed. BBMP should consider this aspect and come up with a workable solution for citizens," said a city-based environmentalist.

'10-15 people were questioned'

Final report likely to be submitted, says official

The final report in the Ranya Rao gold smuggling case is likely to be submitted on Tuesday, Karnataka Additional Chief Secretary Gaurav Gupta, said on Monday.

Gupta, who is leading the investigation of the case, told the media that the investigation had been conducted thoroughly and also that no one was pressured during the inquiry. He also confirmed that multiple individuals associated with the case had been questioned.

"We are checking the final details of the report and hope to submit it today... It was a thorough investigation; no one needs to feel under pressure...10-15 people were questioned..." Gupta said.

"We have inquired with several people associated with the movement," he added.

INFOCUS RANYA RAO CASE

Ranya Rao

Ranya Rao was arrested on March 3 at Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport after officials from the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) found her carrying gold. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) later filed an FIR based on a complaint by Abhishek Chandra Gupta, Additional Director of DRI.

The FIR was registered under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, along with several sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita (BNS). According to the complaint, two foreign nationals were arrested at Mumbai Airport on March 6 for attempting to smuggle 21.28 kg of gold into India, valued at Rs. 18.92 crore.

Abhishek Chandra Gupta, Additional Director of DRI, in his complaint, stated that these cases involving passengers traveling from Dubai and attempting to smuggle gold in large quantities point to a "possible nexus" with a coordinated smuggling syndicate, possibly operating from Dubai (UAE).

Gupta, in his complaint, also suspected the involvement of public servants and others. —ANI

BYD vs Tesla

Big jump

15 bn yuan: Chinese electric vehicle maker BYD's net profit leapt 73.1% in the fourth quarter of 2024 to a record $2.1 billion, it said on Monday.

The edge

- The company has continued to roll out cheaper models, contributing to the deepening of a brutal two-year price war in the world's largest auto market
- It has also roiled the market in recent weeks by unveiling a new super-charging EV technology platform and announcing that it will offer smart driving features on most of its line-up at no extra charge

In Europe too

Tesla behind: Meanwhile shares of its main rival's EV sales in Europe also fell in February behind legacy brand Volkswagen and the BMW group, as well as rivals from China, data by research platform JATO Dynamics showed

44% drop: Tesla's battery-electric vehicle (BEV) registrations in 25 European Union markets, the UK, Norway and Switzerland fell from the same month of 2024, to under 16,000 cars sold in February

BYD's BEV sales in the same markets were up 94% to over 4,000

—Agencies

AROUNDTHEWORLD

South Korea's PM back in seat

South Korea's Constitutional Court made a landmark decision on Monday, reinstating impeached Prime Minister Han Duck-soo as acting president, Al Jazeera reported.
This move is the latest twist in the country's ongoing political saga, which began with the impeachment of President Yoon Suk-yeol.
The court's eight justices voted 7-1 to dismiss Han's impeachment, restoring him to the country's highest office. However, they separately consider the fate of Yoon, who was suspended from his duties after briefly imposing martial law on December 3, as per Al Jazeera.
Two justices ruled the impeachment motion against Han lacked legitimacy, as it didn't receive the required two-thirds majority from lawmakers. ANI

Bird flu seen in sheep

Bird flu has been detected in a sheep in northern England, the first known case of its kind in the world, Britain's government said, adding to the growing list of mammals infected by the disease and fuelling fears of a pandemic. Many mammals have died of the H5N1 bird flu virus across the globe including bears, cats, dairy cows, dogs, dolphins, seals and tigers. "The case was identified following routine surveillance of livestock on a premises in Yorkshire where highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5N1) had been confirmed in other captive birds," it was stated. Reuters

Tiger makes it official

Tiger Woods has confirmed his relationship with the former daughter-in-law of President Donald Trump, publishing two images to social media in a post that said, "Love is in the air." Woods and Vanessa Trump, who was married to Donald Trump Jr., had been seen at Torrey Pines in San Diego along with her daughter, Kai, when Woods arrived for the final round to hand out the trophy to the winner of the Genesis Invitational. He is the tournament host. Kai Trump goes to the Benjamin School with Woods' two children. AP

CLOSERHOME

Kamra show: Studio razed

The studio in Khar, Mumbai, in which stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra filmed his show containing the controversial "traitor" jibe at Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde was on Monday demolished by Mumbai's civic body for alleged building violations.
The action by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation came a day after Habitat studio and Unicontinental hotel where it is located were ransacked late Sunday by Shiv Sainiks. The temporary shed and other structures comprising the studio, which was created in the basement of the hotel, has been razed, a civic official said. "It was removed as there is no civic permission to create a studio in the basement. The BMC will check the hotel to see if everything is as per the allowed plan," the official said.
Earlier the studio announced they were shutting down after Shiv Sena workers' vandalism. In an Instagram post, it said, "We are shocked and extremely broken by the acts of vandalism..." PTI

Calculators allowed?

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is examining a proposal to allow use of basic non-programmable calculators in class 12 accountancy exams to ease cognitive load associated with lengthy calculations, according to board officials.
A panel will be formed to formulate guidelines on their use to ensure uniformity, they added.
While CBSE allows students with special needs in both classes 10 and 12 to use calculators, the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISEC) allowed class 12 students to use calculators in 2021. "The committee had proposed that basic, non-programmable calculators be allowed in class 12 accountancy exams limited to functions for typical financial calculations, such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and percentage calculations," a board official said. PTI

Student suicides: Task force set up

The Supreme Court on Monday took note of the recurring cases of student suicides in higher educational institutions and formed a National Task Force (NTF) to address the mental health concerns of students and prevent such incidents.
A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan directed Delhi Police to register an FIR on the complaints of the family members of two students who died by suicide while studying at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, in 2023.
Noting a "disturbing pattern" of student suicides were being reported from various educational institutes, the apex court said these tragedies underscored the urgent need for a more robust, comprehensive and responsive mechanism to address various factors which compel students to resort to taking their own lives.
"The instances of student suicides in higher educational institutions, including private educational institutions, serve as a grim reminder of the inadequacy and ineffectiveness of the existing legal and institutional framework in addressing mental health concerns of students on campuses and to prevent the students from taking the extreme step," the order said. PTI

FARNAZ

Chai-Time

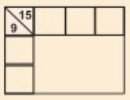
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

96÷4!(3(2(1-0!)2)3) = ?

mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

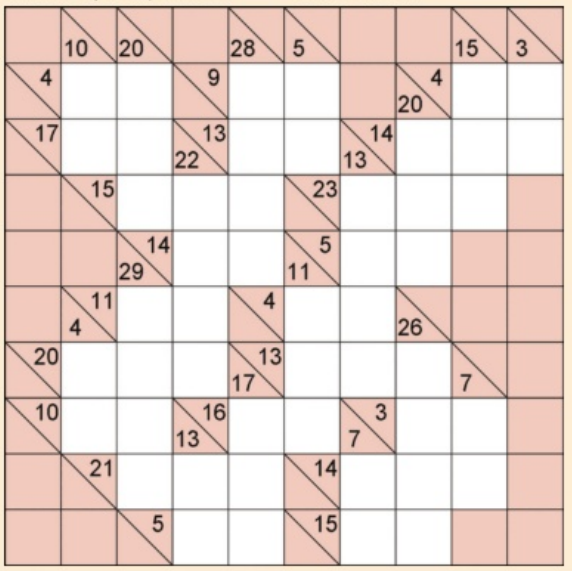
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

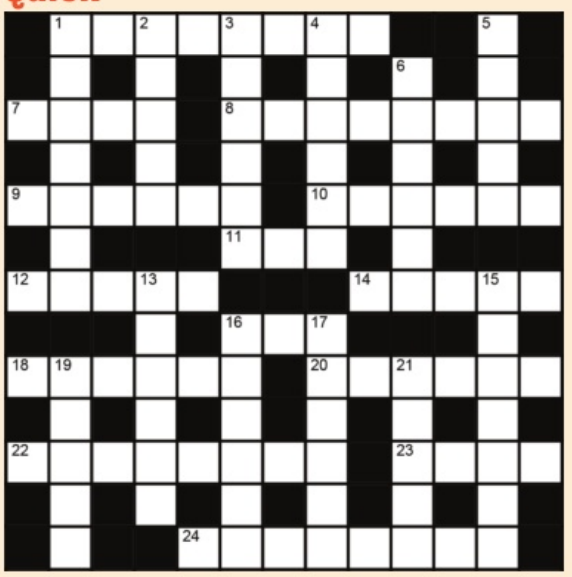


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 SR in SRK (8)
7 Advise against (4)
8 Deteriorate or become poorer (3,5)
9 Reprimands (6)
10 Entails or necessitates (6)
11 Novelist Rand (3)
12 Clan or family (5)
14 Oneness (5)
16 Polynesian food (3)
18 Avoids, escapes (6)
20 Threadbare (6)
22 Major city of Oahu (8)
23 Least amount (4)
24 One___ ___ deserves another? (4,4)

DOWN

1 More meagre (7)
2 Abolish (5)
3 A town in Southern Sicily–"As a rug" anagram? (6)
4 Young one of a cat (6)
5 Follow (5)
6 Amman is its capital (6)
13 Unsatisfactory state of affairs? (3,3)
15 Market near Brigade Road (7)
16 False, prefix (6)
17 Sent out or emitted (6)
19 Weaving machines (5)
21 Farewell (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: N EQUALS H

NM'Z SNM AJGU CH D IEK YNC VJINSZ EO D WCCQ BEZS XK HVJFAJGI D ZYJSFN.

Linemaro

Was your father a thief? He stole the stars from the sky and put them in your eyes.

Mindchow

There has been only one Christmas the rest are anniversaries

Joke of the day

Why does night fall but never break and day break but never fall?

Loop

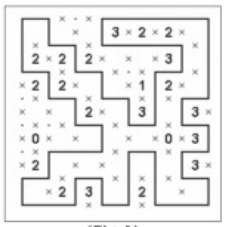
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

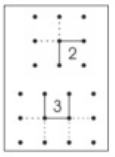
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

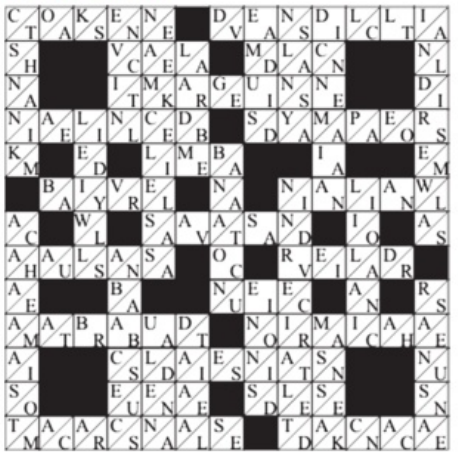


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

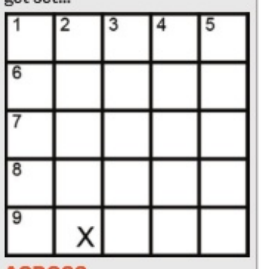
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Bar ad; 6 Arden; 7 Alien; 8 A nape; 9 Lutex

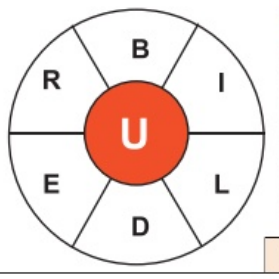
DOWN

1 Pared; 2 Laxer; 3 A due I; 4 Laban; 5 An net

Mensapuzzle

Ho

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

12 Average; **14** Good; **16** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

6			8	7				9
			5			8		
	9	7			6	5		
		5					7	8
3				6				4
4	1					2		
		1	4			7	3	
		3			5			
5				2	7			6

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 8

1 2 2 5

Medium = 6

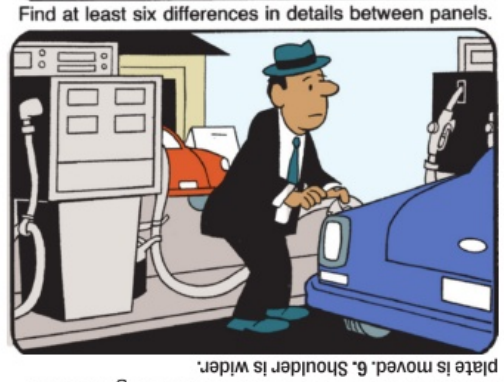
1 7 8 9

Hard = 30

2 4 6 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Tire is moved. 2. Garage door is missing. 3. Hat is tilted. 4. Rear window is not showing. 5. License plate is moved. 6. Shoulder is wider.

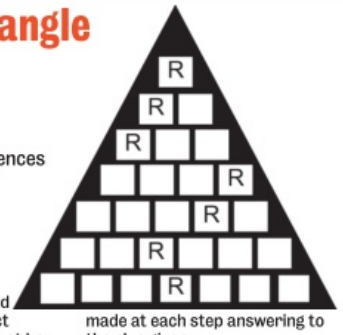
Riddler

There are three brothers: Al, Ben, and Carl. Two of the three brothers are boxers. Here are some facts:
1. The shorter of Al and Ben is the older boxer.
2. The younger of Ben and Carl is the shorter boxer.
3. The taller of Al and Carl is the younger boxer.

Which brother is not a boxer?

Alpha triangle

1 18th letter
2 Again , prefix
3 Female ruff
4 Prophet
5 Nobles
6 Shopper's indulgences
7 Female ruler

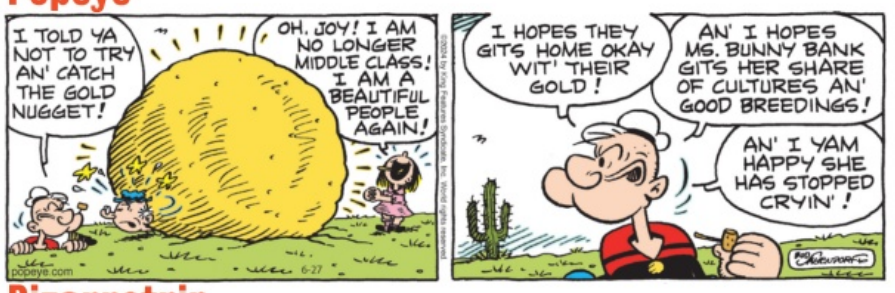


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

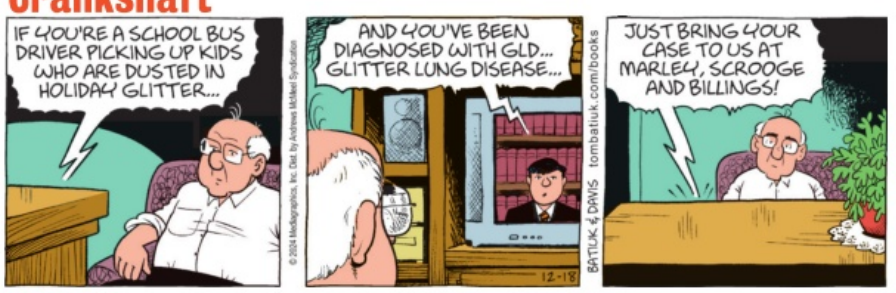

I TOLD YA NOT TO TRY AN' CATCH THE GOLD NUGGET!
OH, JOY! I AM NO LONGER MIDDLE CLASS! I AM A BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE AGAIN!
I HOPES THEY GITS HOME OKAY WIT' THEIR GOLD!
AN' I HOPES MS. BUNNY BANK GITS HER SHARE OF CULTURES AN' GOOD BREEDINGS!
AN' I YAM HAPPY SHE HAS STOPPED CRYIN'!
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft


IF YOU'RE A SCHOOL BUS DRIVER PICKING UP KIDS WHO ARE DUSTED IN HOLIDAY GLITTER...
AND YOU'VE BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH GLD... GLITTER LUNG DISEASE...
JUST BRING YOUR CASE TO US AT MARLEY, SCROOGE AND BILLINGS!

Mutts

I LOST MY PURR, SHTINKY.
I KNOW WHERE IT IS, MOOCH.
YOU DO!?!
SURE! IT'S THAT FEELING OF JOY DEEP INSIDE YOU.
I THOUGHT THAT WAS THE EGGSHNOG.
mutts.com

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may meet an influential person who could help advance your work. Your professional network will strengthen, and you'll be motivated to implement new ideas in your business. Investing more capital may bring financial gains in the near future. On the domestic front, family gatherings and social events will keep you busy.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Your mother's health is improving, bringing relief to the family. Work will be enjoyable, and you may receive rewards for your hard work. Your social respect is likely to increase. However, excessive mental strain could leave you exhausted, and work commitments may prevent you from attending a family event.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You will feel content at work today. A short work-related trip is on the cards, and you may also visit a religious place for inner peace. Guidance from your mentors or spiritual leaders will provide clarity about your goals and future direction.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You might feel low today, so it's essential to stay calm and think twice before making any decisions. Traveling to recover money is possible, but be cautious to avoid financial loss. Adventure trips should be avoided. Students are advised to focus on in-depth studies for better success.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
You may plan home renovations and invest in decorative or creative items to enhance your social status. Property investments may also be considered. Romantic moments with your spouse will strengthen your emotional bond. Singles might meet a potential soulmate, and lovebirds could make important marriage-related decisions.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Happiness surrounds you today. While chronic health issues in the family may persist, financial improvements are likely as stuck funds may be recovered. Employees may receive incentives, boosting their financial situation. Job seekers might land a job through a friend's or relative's reference.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
A significant day for your domestic life as kids will keep you engaged, and you may receive good news regarding their education. Buying creative items for your home or office will be on your mind. However, be mindful while purchasing household goods or jewellery, and use wisdom in financial decisions.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Impatience may reflect in your work, leading to minor mistakes that could delay tasks. Avoid investing in fixed assets for now. However, with the blessings of elders, you will overcome challenges. By evening, your focus on work will improve, bringing a sense of stability.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Blessed by the Moon, destiny is in your favor today. You'll be full of energy and determination, and your hard work will lead to success. Support from subordinates will ease your tasks. A short work-related trip may arise, and good news from a sibling is possible. Renovation plans for your home or office will test your creativity.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
You will successfully control unnecessary expenses, leading to increased savings. Creativity will shine in your work or personal space, enhancing your social standing. Lovebirds may receive family and friends' support regarding marriage plans.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Complications are now under control, bringing peace of mind. You will establish a better balance between income and expenses, leading to financial stability. However, avoid excessive travel or overworking, as it could impact your health. Students can start planning for higher education. Lovebirds will enjoy happy moments together.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Health concerns may cause impatience today. Keep your temper in check to avoid unnecessary conflicts. Avoid spending money on non-essential items, as it may impact your savings. Lovebirds should steer clear of trivial arguments to prevent misunderstandings or potential breakups.

KIDZONE

S N Tejaswini, 8 Years, J K Indian School

Sadhvi Sanju, 8 Years, New Cambridge English School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
96÷24(3(2(1-1)2)3) =
96÷24(3(2(0)2)3) =
96÷24(3(6(0)2)3) =
96÷24(0)3)2) =
96÷24(0)3)) =
96÷24(0)3) =
4(0) = 0

BULL'S EYE
blue, blur, bulk, BUILDER, buried, burl, burred, lurid, REBUILD, rude, rule, ruled

FAST FIVE

D	R	A	B	A
R	E	D	A	N
A	L	I	N	E
P	A	E	A	N
E	X	U	L	T

RIDDLER
Card is not a boxer.

STRIKE OUT

T	A	R	S	A	L	S	D	A	C	A	C	A		
S		U	N	A	S	E	E					N		
I		C	L	I	E	N	T	S				N		
M	A	R	A	U	D	O	R	A	C	H	E			
E		B		N	E	E	A					S		
H	U	L	A	S	O	V	E	L	D					
C	L	S	A	T	A	N	I	S						
B	Y	R	E	N	I	N	L	A	W					
K	D	L	E	A	A	E								
N	A	I	L	E	D	D	A	M	P	E	R			
A	I	M	A	G	I	N	E	D						
H	V	A	L	M	A	C	N							
T	O	K	E	N	V	A	N	I	L	L	A			

QUICK

S		G	O	O	D	T	U	R	N					
M		B	D	E	E			A						
H	O	N	O	L	U	L	U	I	O	T	A			
E	L	U	D	E	S	S	H	A	B	B	Y			
T	R	I	B	E		U	N	I	T	Y				
E			A	Y	N		A							
S	C	O	L	O	S	E	N	D	U	E	S			
W	A	R	N		G	E	T	W	O	R	S	E		
C		N		A		I		J		N				
S	H	A	H	A	R	U	K	H		E				

MENSA PUZZLE
3. As you move from left to right, the spot total on each domino increases by 3 then decreases by 1 alternately.

QUOTE UNCODE
He's the kind of a guy who lights up a room just by flicking a switch.

SUDOKU

6	5	4	8	7	1	3	2	9
1	3	2	5	9	4	8	6	7
8	9	7	2	3	6	5	4	1
9	2	5	1	4	3	6	7	8
3	7	8	9	6	2	1	5	4
4	1	6	7	5	8	2	9	3
2	6	1	4	8	9	7	3	5
7	4	3	6	1	5	9	8	2
5	8	9	3	2	7	4	1	6

ALPHA TRIANGLE
R, Re, Ree, Seer, Peers, Sprees, Empress.

LOOP

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 + 5 − 1 + 2 = 8
Medium
7 − 9 + 8 x 1 = 6
Hard
4 + 6 / 2 x 6 = 30

KAKURO

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It's a girl
Cricketer KL Rahul and actor Athiya Shetty have become parents to a baby girl. Athiya took to Instagram and announced the arrival of her daughter

Path of parity

Tamannaah talks about gender equality

Tamannaah Bhatia is now gearing up for the release of her film 'Odela 2'. The actress was recently present at the trailer launch of her film where she also spoke about being cast in it, despite her 'milky beauty' tag. The actress who is balancing her career in the south and Bollywood, has now opened up on gender equality.

She has said that now while things are much better, it's still a struggle for women to empower themselves.

> "There's some part of the wokeness that's working very well for us. The women need to own up to themselves

On gender-equality

The actress spoke about gender equality in both the industries and said during a chat with Hindustan Times, "It's getting better. It definitely is getting better a lot. There's some part of the wokeness that's working very well for us. The women need to own up to themselves." She added, "I think we are fighting too hard. I think there's too much of a struggle to empower us or there's this constant need of outlining it that we are women and that we are struggling and that, I mean, it's us. We are the ones who are constantly putting that into perspective."

Tamannaah also spoke about how women should take the matter in their own hands. She said, "I feel like it's important that if you were to take the matter as much as possible in your own hands and not constantly go into a big party, and think, we are likely to arrive at something that empowers us. It is going to be individual only. And that individual will inspire more individuals to eventually and hopefully one day say that we truly feel like we are equal and empowered." —ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

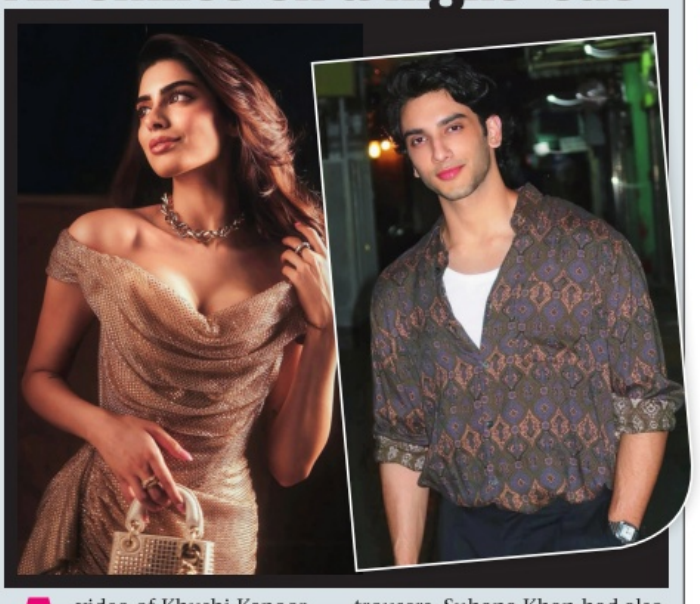
Aim for good quality

Rocking Star Yash aka Rocky Bhai gave a clarion call to producers, directors, actors, and technicians of Sandalwood on Sunday to focus on quality and hard work rather than complaining against audiences' disinterest.

"I realised that Kannada movie buffs have been encouraging and supporting quality movies. So producers and directors must focus on quality," Yash said. He was speaking after unveiling the trailer of Manada Kadalu at a mall recently. "Events succeed in drawing the attention of the audiences but it is the quality of the movie that draws audiences to theaters. Let us upgrade ourselves to make good quality movies," Yash said.

Thanking Yash for gracing the function, Sumukha, who plays the lead in Manada Kadalu, said he was lucky to have Yash as the chief guest. "Yash sir was the chief guest for my movie Yaana. Now, I am happy to have him as the chief guest for this movie," he said.

All smiles on a night-out



A video of Khushi Kapoor and Vedang Raina enjoying a lively musical party is doing rounds on social media. The duo, along with their friends, were seen having a great time, dancing, and taking selfies with the DJ. It also showed Khushi wrapping her arms around Vedang, fueling dating rumors once again.

Glam outfits for the night

For the night out, Khushi looked stunning in a shiny purple off shoulder top paired with blue jeans. She kept her makeup minimal and added delicate necklaces and bracelets to complete her look. Vedang, on the other hand, looked stylish in a simple white t-shirt layered with a black shirt and matching trousers. Suhana Khan had also joined them, wearing a chic halter neck top in a matching shade of purple paired with blue denim jeans. The trio's coordinated outfits caught the attention of fans and media alike. Their friend, Muskan Chanana, also shared pictures from the night on Instagram. One of the images featured Khushi and Suhana posing with Muskan, all smiling and enjoying the moment.
Fans were quick to Khushi-Vedang dating rumors Khushi and Vedang have been linked ever since they starred together in their debut film, 'The Archies.' Despite their on-screen and off-screen chemistry, both Khushi and Vedang have not confirmed being in a relationship. —Etimes

Some Monday motivation

Bollywood actress and fitness enthusiast Shilpa Shetty Kundra is back with some serious Monday motivation. Known for her dedication to fitness, the 'Dhadkan' actress took to her Instagram handle to inspire her followers by sharing a glimpse of her workout routine and how she is "crushing her fitness goals." On Monday, Shilpa posted a couple of her photos with text written on it: "Nothing feels as good as... the happiness of crushing your own fitness goals. What's your #MondayMotivation?." The actress is seen wearing a grey tank top with, "Calm is my super power written on it."

Sharing her photos, the 'Hungama 2' actress wrote in the caption, "Work hard, Calm Raho #MondayMotivation #SwasthRahoMastRaho #FitIndia."

The actress often shares her workout videos on social media, motivating her followers to stay active and prioritize their health. With her dedication to fitness, Shilpa inspires fans by showcasing everything from intense training sessions to yoga routines, encouraging a balanced and healthy lifestyle.

Shilpa, an avid social media user, had posted adorable photos with her furry baby Truffle. —IANS

Daniel Craig, disconnected

Hollywood star Daniel Craig has blamed his James Bond fame for making him feel disconnected from the world.

Craig started playing 007 with 'Casino Royale' in 2006. He was seen in the role in films 'Quantum of Solace' (2008), 'Skyfall' (2012), 'Spectre' (2015) – before concluding his run as the super-spy in 'No Time to Die' in 2021, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

In an interview with Italy's 'Il Corriere della Sera', Craig reflected on the overwhelming nature of celebrity he felt when he took the Bond role, he said: "Fame is disembodying. And no one teaches you how to be famous.

"At the beginning, I hid away, I didn't want to be around people, I no longer knew how to exist in the world. You do lose a part of your life."

The actor also tackled the nature of fame in today's digital age in his new interview.

He said: "In this world, where social media can make you famous overnight, people lose their minds."

The star emphasised the importance of staying grounded in showbiz, saying that acting can serve as "a way to stay connected to yourself and to the people around you." — IANS

'Bad' is good

Nakul Gowda and Manvitha Harish-starrer Bad is set to arrive in theaters on March 28. Its teaser was unveiled by retired police officer and politician BK Shivaram on Thursday. Shivaram appreciated the quality of the teaser and wished the cast and crew good luck. SR Venkatesh Gowda has bankrolled the film directed by PC Shekhar.

"Bad is my 11th movie as a director. The movie has six characters that represent six vices. I thank music director Arjun Janya for scoring lilting music. The movie's songs have already become popular," said Shekhar.

The director said the cast and crew have worked hard and the movie has turned out well. "All the credit must go to the cast and crew. The producer has provided us with all the facilities during the shooting as he did not want to compromise with quality," the director said.

Nakul Gowda thanked moviegoers for their support and encouragement to his previous movie Preethiya Raayabhari. "I guarantee the audiences that this movie will be worth your time and money. I play a different character in this movie. I appeal to all to watch this movie at theatres," said Nakul.